# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# AGRICULTURE
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1552
ANSWERED ON:07.08.2006
SUBSIDIES TO SC ST FARMERS .
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**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

(a) Whether the Government proposes to extend subsidies provided to SC/ST farmers for water harvesting schemes to small and marginal farmers in drought affected area;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) The extent to which the artisans are likely to be benefited therefrom? ANSWER

## Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a) to (c): Government of India, Ministry of Finance has launched a Centrally Sponsored Water Harvesting Scheme for Scheduled Caste/ Scheduled Tribe (SC/ST) during X Five Year Plan with main objective to cover SC/ST farmers who are not able to avail benefits from credit link schemes for providing irrigation facilities to their homestead in drought affected areas. Under the scheme, Water Harvesting Structures are constructed to augment the income generating capacity of the SC/ST farmers. According to the scheme capital subsidy upto 50% is provided by the Government through National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD) to a maximum of Rs.15,000.00 and the balance 50% is provided through Bank loans for covering one irrigation unit at an average cost of Rs.20,000.00.

The Scheme is being implemented through Commercial Banks, Regional Rural Banks and Cooperpative Banks. These banking institutions have the necessary infrastructure and capabilities to implement the scheme and are getting reimbursement of 50% as a subsidy from NABARD. This scheme benefits the SC/ST farmers by increasing their income due to assured irrigation. An amount of Rs.20.00 crore has been allocated during 2006-07 for construction of 10,000 numbers of Water Harvesting Scheme to benefit SC/ST farmers.

In addition to above various Watershed Development Programmes namely, (1) National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Area (NWDPRA),
(ii) Soil Conservation for Enhancing Productivity of Degraded Lands in the Catchments of River Valley Project and Flood Prone River (RVP &FPR),
(iii) Reclamation of Alkali Soil (RAS),
(iv) Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Area (WDPSCA),
(v) Externally Aided Projects (EAPs),
(vi) Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP),
(vii)Desert Development Programme (DDP),
(viii) Integrated Waste-land Development Programme (IWDP) & (ix) National Afforestration Programme (NAP) are being implemented by Government of India as Centrally Sponsored Schemes/ Programmes (with 100% Central Assistance). Under these programmes, activities for Water Harvesting viz. Farm Ponds, Percolation Tank, Dug Wells, Silt detention Structures, Dug- out Pond, Gully Plugs, Live Check Dams, Check Dams, Earthen Gully Plugs, Gabion Check Dams, Drop Spillways, Drop Inlet Spilways, Loose Bolder Structures, Spurs etc. are under taken. Water Harvesting Structures can be constructed on private lands in drought affected areas with 90% Government funds and remaining 10% contribution is taken from the individual farmer under NWDPRA. For SC/ST farmer this contribution is only 5%.

Assistance in the form of subsidy is also provided at the rate of 25% of cost to a maximum limit of Rs.8000.00 for purchase of Pump Set to all categories of the farmers under Farm Mechanization Programmes of Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Macro Management of Agriculture.

Under NWDPRA programme lively hood support is also provided to non farm families i.e. artisan etc. Self Help Groups (SHGs) are formed for providing financial assistance to such artisans. 26,106 numbers of SHGs have already been formed with a view to help such artisans.